

NSC BRIEFING

25X1 4 August 1954

INDIAN MOVES AGAINST PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS

I. Current Situation

A. Indian-inspired "volunteers," began 22 July "liberate" isolated parts Portugal's three pockets in India--Goa, Damao and Diu--attempt repeat tactics used induce French cede their two remaining territories.

B. Portugal has announced "intransigent firmness" toward Indian pressure. Lisbon has:

1. Raised subject North Atlantic Council but did not ask action. US and UK admit applicability NAT Article 4 only--consultation, but no decision or action.

2. Sent about 2,000 reinforcements raising troop strength in India to estimated 5,000.

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~~Background~~

**A. Indian Attitude**

1. Portuguese pockets relics 16th century imperialism, offensive Indian nationalism--bases for smugglers.
2. Portuguese oppressing legitimate aspirations of people.
3. India not responsible for popular reaction--has no connection "volunteers," but Indian police stationed around "liberated" enclaves prevent return Portuguese
4. Indian Foreign Office assured US India not US. Force. 2

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B. Portuguese Attitude

1. Sentimental attachment.
2. Consciousness interests of Catholic Church.
3. Fear ouster from India may lead agitation in Africa.
4. Portuguese refused discuss question of transfer--take refuge in constitutional fiction territories oversea are integral and inalienable parts mother country.

III. Prospects

- A. Continuing tension--controlled by New Delhi, which can turn "volunteers" on-off at will.
- B. Possibility larger scale violence if scheduled 15 August Indian Independence Day march on Goa takes place.

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C. In case violence, Portugal may invoke  
NATO Art. 4--toothless but embarrassing  
for US and Britain--NATO certain  
portrayed by India as defending  
colonialism.

D. British position particularly difficult  
UK's ancient alliance Portugal and Indian  
membership Commonwealth. London reported  
trying moderate.

E. Timing Indian move adds to possible  
embarrassment for West, since West  
presumably reluctant offend New Delhi  
while latter chairing Indochina truce  
supervision mechanism.